



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 159

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2013

No. 73

Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable WILLIAM M. COWAN, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord God, Your power keeps us from falling. Today we bring You our praise and thanksgiving because Your mercies endure forever.

Thank You for the gift of freedom and for the opportunities our Senators have today to protect and defend our liberties. Forgive them when they miss the mark. Give them strength when they are weak, as You provide them with vision for the tasks ahead. Engender in them a renewed sense of gratitude for Your call to serve their Nation and Your kingdom.

Lord, we again ask You to strengthen everyone affected by the Oklahoma tornado. Bless the victims, the rescue workers, and their families in the days and weeks to come.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable WILLIAM M. COWAN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 22, 2013.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable WILLIAM M. COWAN, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. COWAN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour. Republicans will control the first half, and the majority will control the final half. Following morning business the Senate will resume consideration of S. 954, the farm bill, managed by Senator STABENOW and Senator COCHRAN. We will continue working through amendments to the farm bill today. Progress was made yesterday, and we need to continue working on the amendments. At 4 p.m. today we will proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 65 regarding Iran sanctions, and the vote on that resolution will be at 5 p.m.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 1003, S. 1004, H.R. 45

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there are three bills at the desk due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bills by title for the second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1003) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to reset interest rates for new student loans.

A bill (S. 1004) to permit voluntary economic activity.

A bill (H.R. 45) to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and health

care-related provisions in the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010.

Mr. REID. I object to any further proceedings to all three of these bills at this time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard. The bills will be placed on the calendar under rule XIV.

IMMIGRATION AND THE BUDGET

Mr. REID. Mr. President, last night the Senate Judiciary Committee, after some 24 hearings and several weeks of markup, advanced a commonsense, bipartisan proposal to fix our broken immigration system. No one can dispute that it is broken. No one can dispute that it needs to be fixed. I commend the good work of the committee, and I am grateful to everyone who worked those long hours. I will bring this bill, which is a strong bipartisan bill, to the floor in June, sometime soon after we return from the Memorial Day work period.

Although neither Republicans nor Democrats will support each and every aspect of this legislation, it is gratifying to see the momentum behind these reforms that will make our country safer and help 11 million undocumented immigrants get right with the law. I applaud significantly the efforts of the Gang of 8—four Democrats and four Republicans—who showed bravery as they set aside partisanship to address the critical issues facing our Nation.

I am confident that for everyone in that Gang of 8, Democrats and Republicans, there are parts of this bill they do not like. But that is how we move legislation forward for the greater good—compromise. I admire their legislative skills and appreciate very much their ability to set aside these partisan differences and move this extremely important bill to the floor.

There was other courage on display on the Senate floor yesterday when

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S3701